



School Leader Update

Iowa Department of Education

JANUARY 2006

Resources for Iowa School Leaders

NEWS FROM THE DE

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK:

Do Iowa Districts Need Content Standards Set By State Law?

The subject of standards-based education made headlines again recently when Education Week Magazine released its annual "Quality Counts" report on January 4. Many of you know that Ed Week publishes a "Quality Counts" report each January and gives grades to each state in the areas of standards and accountability, efforts to improve teacher quality, school climate, and resource equity. Each "Quality Counts" report also does an in-depth analysis of a specific topic, and this year's topic is standards-based education, and whether the emphasis on standards has helped student achievement.

Iowa's grades this year are similar to years past: Standards and accountability (F), teacher quality (C+), school climate (B-), and resource equity (B+). As most of you know, our F in "standards" is a result of our not having state-mandated content standard for all schools. Although each district of course is required to have standards, the report doesn't recognize local authority – even when that local authority has shown great results, as is the case in Iowa.

Although mandating state standards might help Iowa's "grade" on narrowly focused reports such as Ed Week's, mandating state standards now would disrupt five years of work by school districts in the following areas:

- Establishment of content and performance standards by local school boards.
- Alignment of curriculum to the standards.
- Alignment of assessments to the standards.
- Reporting measures to parents (many school districts have adopted report cards that clearly indicate progress on standards for students).
- Local management systems (technology) that are configured to track progress, assignments, etc. to local standards.

A move to state-mandated standards would also disassemble our NCLB accountability plan with the USDE because we would have to start over with new standards and new assessments. Under NCLB, a state must have assessments aligned to the standards for grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11 in reading, math, and science. Revising to state-mandated standards would require the state to implement new assessments and/or modify the Iowa Tests, and a management structure for the assessments at a cost of millions of dollars each year (Illinois has a contract for \$100 million over five years; other states typically spend \$15 million each year).

The switch would also disrupt our data and trend analysis for Adequate Yearly Progress for schools and districts, since there would be no comparable data from one year to the next to determine proficiency.

Although not mandated by state law, Iowa DOES have core standards in reading, math, and science, which are posted on our website at <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/nclb/doc/ccsb.doc>. Every school district has documented to the Iowa DE that these are incorporated into their local standards, and this entire process has been approved by the USDE. These standards also have been through an independent evaluation to verify they are in alignment with the assessments (Iowa Tests).

Because these are the standards tested by the Iowa Tests, they provide us with more than 60 years of test data. No other state has that kind of test data from which they can study and determine trends and student needs. Every parent in Iowa, every classroom teacher, every building, and every district has access to a tremendous amount of information related to every level of achievement.

Perhaps most important, standards set by law obviously do not assure high student achievement, as proved by the data below taken from the Quality Counts 2006 report:

State	Quality Counts Grade	4th Grade Reading Scores	4th Grade Math Scores
Louisiana	A	209	230
New York	A	223	238
Mass	A	231	247
South Carolina	A	213	238
Indiana	A	218	240
Florida	A	219	239
New Mexico	A	207	224
West Virginia	A	215	231
Maryland	A-	220	238
Georgia	A-	214	234
Ohio	A-	223	242
Iowa	F	221	240

Of the states that achieved A's, five saw their NAEP scores decrease in reading, one stayed the same, and five saw increases. Iowa increased. In math, four states decreased, five increased, and two stayed the same. Iowa increased.

For some observers, state mandates seem like an easier route to be taken – it would be easier to explain our system, it would improve our “grades” on report cards issued by others. But we need to ask ourselves these questions: Is the question about local versus state standards the right question, or is it time for us to think about what all of our children in this nation need in order to compete in a global economy? Would a process to establish state standards distract from our work to provide teachers with the tools and resources they need to do the job? Would state standards remove a local board’s ability to respond rapidly to needed changes in standards and curriculum? Do state standards create ownership by your teachers, your parents, etc.? Will state standards raise student achievement? Will it improve your district’s report card?

The attached summary explains all of Ed Week’s results for Iowa, and I think you’ll see good news overall. I hope you’ll be able to take time to read the full report, which you’ll find at www.edweek.org/qc06, including the in-depth article about Iowa (“The Road Less Traveled”) and the commentaries that debate the value of standards-based education and the role of schools in providing comprehensive education.



Congratulations

Davenport West High School has been recognized by the College Board for providing its students outstanding access to and success in AP classes. Davenport West will be honored at the AP Awards Ceremony in February.

New Chief at Heartland AEA

Maxine Kilcrease, assistant superintendent of the Portland, OR, Public School District, will become the new chief administrator at Heartland Area Education Agency, effective July 1, 2006. Heartland AEA’s current chief administrator, Wayne Rand, is retiring June 30, 2006, after 16 years as the agency’s top official. Kilcrease will be Heartland AEA’s fourth chief administrator since its inception in 1975.

Hurricane Relief Package Signed

On Dec. 30, 2005, President Bush signed into law the Hurricane Education Recovery Act. The legislation authorizes three new grant programs to assist school districts and schools in meeting the educational needs of students displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita: 1) \$645 million for Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students, including reimbursement to states and local districts that accepted displaced students; 2) \$ 5 million for Assistance for Homeless Youth; and 3) \$750 million for Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations in

Texas, Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

The US Department of Education has said it plans to issue guidance to states about data collection and reporting, as well as the application procedure, necessary to obtain recovery aid funds. Once that guidance is received, the DE will notify all districts about the process and timeline for reimbursements. Visit <http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/secletter/051230.html> for more details about the Recovery Act.

Register Now for LGBT Conference

The Governor's Conference on LGBT Youth is scheduled for February 21, 2006, at Drake University in Des Moines. The conference is the first of its kind in the state of Iowa and is designed to explore multiple aspects affecting the safety and well being of LGBT students in schools and communities throughout Iowa. Keynote speakers include Kevin Jennings, Executive Director of GLSEN; James Howe, author of "The Misfits;" and Judy Shepard, Executive Director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation. A conference brochure and registration materials are attached. For additional information or to request a scholarship, contact Brad Clark at the GLBT Youth in Iowa Schools Task Force, brad.clark@iowasafeschools.org, 515/243-1221.

Nominations Open for Outstanding Volunteers

If you know of an outstanding volunteer (person or organization), please consider nominating them for a Governor's Volunteer Award. The Governor's Volunteer Awards program has been in existence since 1982 and has a long history of recognizing volunteers and charitable support to state agencies, their partners, schools and community-based organizations. Nomination forms are attached, and must be turned into the Department of Education no later than January 31, 2006. For more information, contact Joe Herrity, joe.Herrity@iowa.gov, 515/281-3290.

Promising Practices to Share

East Marshall High School, Garst Seed Company, and Future Farmers of America have teamed up to expand the rigor and relevance for students in various classrooms. Garst has agreed to allow the students from the East Marshall FFA to open and run a Garst seed dealership, providing the students valuable, first-hand experience in sales, marketing, agriculture, and general business operations. Garst also is working with the high school science department to provide information about plant genetics. For additional details, contact East Marshall High School principal Rex Kozak, 641/479-2785, rkozak@e-marshall.k12.ia.us.

Do you have a "promising practice" that is helping to boost the rigor and relevance in your classrooms? Send it to kathi.slaughter@iowa.gov.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Legislative Update and State Board of Education Priorities

The Iowa Legislature will reconvene on Monday, January 9, 2006, and the Governor will deliver his State of the State address on Tuesday, January 10. You can track bills of interest to educators once the session begins using the Department's Legislative Update page at <https://www.edinfo.state.ia.us/web/legisupdate.asp>.

The Department of Education has prefiled seven bills this year: 1) Educator Quality, 2) 4-year-old preschool funding, 3) High School Improvements, 4) District Sharing Incentives, 5) Changes to Compulsory Attendance Age, 6) Recommended Code changes from the State Board's Technology Advisory Committee, and 7) Miscellaneous Code corrections.

The first three prefiled bills on this list are drafted in support of the DE's offers for services and State Board priorities. Additional details on all of these prefiled bills will be available once the initial drafting of legislative language is completed in early January.

Additionally, the Department is currently developing advocacy packets of information related to 1) Educator Quality, 2) 4-year-old preschool funding, 3) High School Improvements, and 4) Overall adequacy of educational funding. Those materials will be available in mid-January.

Progress on High School Improvements

The Department and State Board are continuing their work on various high school improvement initiatives, including an analysis of graduation requirements as reported by districts, improving and expanding technical support for reading and math interventions, assisting with the Second Annual High School Summit scheduled for January 23-24, developing model core curriculum, and providing planning tools to help 8th graders establish a 4-year plan to complete a model core curriculum during high school.

Full details about the initiatives can be found at www.iowa.gov/educate/ecese/hsbf/index.html on the department's website. Questions? Contact Rita Martens, 515/281-3145 or rita.martens@iowa.gov.

Institute for Tomorrow's Workforce

Interested parties can continue to access information regarding the Institute for Tomorrow's Workforce at <http://www.tomorrowworkforce.org/>. The Institute plans to release a copy of its initial recommendations in mid-January.

Guidance for Out-of-State Placement of Students With IEPs

Although neither the Department of Education nor a local school can recommend out-of-state facilities for students with IEPs, the student's placement team can make that recommendation in certain situations. Please read the attached memo from Lana Michelson, chief of the Bureau of Children, Families and Community Services, for guidance on how to make these placement decisions within the confines of the law and in the best interest of students.

Register for Teacher Development Academies

In response to the interest in quality professional development to address the needs of readers in our middle schools and high schools, the Department will be offering another cycle of Teacher Development Academies beginning this summer and extending through June 2007. The Academies will address Second Chance Reading, Question-Answer Relationships, Concept-Oriented Reading Instruction, and Cognitively Guided Instruction.

Second Chance Reading (SCR) is a program that provides a specific course for struggling readers at the middle and high school levels. In middle schools, struggling readers are assigned to a SCR class rather than their regular reading class. In high schools, SCR classes are treated as an elective course. The focus of SCR is on comprehension of both fiction and non-fiction texts, but vocabulary and fluency are addressed as well. The training includes the following strategies: read alouds, think alouds, inductive thinking, writing and graphic organizers, questioning strategies, vocabulary, fluency practice, and cooperative learning. Training in the Des Moines area will be July 26 - 28; the training for the eastern side of the state will be July 31 - Aug. 2.

Question-Answer Relationships (QAR) is a strategy that engages students in the process of differentiating the types of questions students could ask of text. QAR provides a framework for organizing comprehension strategy instruction across all grade levels and in a variety of subject areas. Students learn to distinguish between types of questions. Teaching students QAR gives students the language for talking about the strategies they use to answer questions. It helps students develop an awareness of their own cognitive processes when answering questions. QAR helps all readers at all grade levels benefit from learning to think about information sources used for asking and answering questions. QAR regional training will be held July 25-27 (Des Moines) and July 31-August 2 (Iowa City) with four additional follow-up sessions throughout the 2006-07 school year. The dates or locations of training are subject to change depending on the geographical locations of school teams and number of participants.

Concept-Oriented Reading Instruction (CORI) is a research-based classroom instructional model emphasizing reading engagement, reading comprehension, and conceptual learning in science or other

content areas designed for all students, including struggling readers. CORI fosters reading engagement and comprehension through the teaching of reading strategies while teaching content area concepts, inquiry skills, and explicitly supporting the development of students' intrinsic motivation to read. CORI instruction contains conceptual themes, real world interactions, self-directed learning, and strategy instruction situated within conceptual contexts, peer collaborations, and self-expression of knowledge through portfolios and exhibits. CORI training events will be held in one region June 19-23 and another region on June 26-30 with five additional follow-up sessions throughout the school year. Locations for the training sessions will be determined based on geographical location of school teams and number of participants.

Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) is a teacher professional development program based on over 20 years of research by Thomas Carpenter, Megan Franke, Linda Levi, Susan Empson and Victoria Jacobs. In CGI professional development, elementary school teachers learn a framework for how children learn the concepts of numbers, operations, and algebra. Teachers work to integrate this framework with their mathematics instruction. CGI is not a curriculum. The knowledge teachers gain in a CGI workshop enhances how they implement any curriculum. CGI teachers understand how their children think about mathematics and how children in general understand mathematics. CGI teachers know how to use what their children currently understand to plan instructional activities for these students. CGI teachers also understand what children need to learn about mathematics in elementary school so they will have a firm foundation upon which they can learn further mathematics. Dates and locations are yet to be determined.

Because we anticipate more applicants than we will be able to accommodate, the application process will be competitive. Each district interested in participating will need to submit an application. Application forms that provide detailed information about the expectations for participation will be available on the website listed below. Applications will be due at the Department on or before 4:30 p.m., February 10, 2006. Costs for the academies will be determined after the legislative session.

On January 13, 2006, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., an ICN session will be made available to schools that are interested in applying to participate in the SCR Academy. Applicants are encouraged to attend this ICN or request a recording of the session. ICN locations will be posted on the Department web site.

Information about each Academy and the application process may be found at <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/tqt/tc/prodev.html> starting January 6. Please contact Deb Hansen, Professional Development Consultant at deb.hansen@iowa.gov or 515/281-6131 if you have questions about the SCR Academy. Please contact Deb Squires, Reading Consultant, at deb.squires@iowa.gov or 515/281-6235 if you have questions about QAR or CORI. For information about CGI, contact Judith Spitzli, 515/281-3874, Judith.spitzli@iowa.gov

The Iowa Acceleration Scale Training Day (via ICN)

The Iowa Department of Education and the Belin-Blank Center for Gifted Education are sponsoring training for the Iowa Acceleration Scale via ICN on Saturday, January 28, 2006, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Two ICN locations are reserved within each AEA.

The purpose of the training is to provide information and skill enhancement to educators so they can be effective in their use of the *Iowa Acceleration Scale (IAS)* with other educators in their school district. Each participant will receive sufficient instruction so that he/she can act as the lead professional on an *IAS* staffing team. The instructors will be Nicholas Colangelo, Ph.D., Director and Co-developer of *IAS*, and Susan Assouline, Ph.D., Associate Director and Co-developer of *IAS*. Registration will be available online at www.education.uiowa.edu/belinblank. Registration is \$50 per participant, paid to the Belin-Blank Center. For registration information, phone 800/336-6463 or call Rosanne Malek, 515/281-3199, Rosanne.malek@iowa.gov.

LEGAL LESSONS

The contact for all Legal Lessons items is Carol Greta, carol.greta@iowa.gov; 515/281-8661.

Athletic Eligibility Rule Changes – Dates of Public Hearings

The date of the first of two “athletic eligibility” hearings before the Legislature’s Administrative Rules Review Committee (ARRC) is Friday, January 6, at 2:15 p.m. in Room 116 of the State Capital. The ARRC will take oral comments from the public at this time.

It is not necessary to attend the ARRC hearing to have one’s opinion counted. Additional opportunities for public comment will be available at two public hearings in January. The purpose of the public hearings is to

provide an opportunity for the public to comment in favor of or opposed to the rules. As with the ARRC hearing, these two public hearings are not opportunities for debate. DE staff will record the number of comments made and whether the speaker was in favor of or opposed to the rule. Persons unable to attend any of the hearings may register their comments in writing to Carol Greta, Grimes State Office Building, 2nd Floor, Des Moines, IA 50319-0146 or carol.greta@iowa.gov.

The two public hearings are scheduled for January 11 and January 26, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. The sites for the public hearings are:

Keystone AEA 1
1400 2nd Street NW
Elkader, IA

Iowa Lakes Community College
300 South 18th Street
Room 22, Library Bldg.
Estherville, IA

Iowa Lakes Community College
1900 North Grand Avenue
Fiber Optic Rm. 118
Spencer Attendance Ctr.
Spencer, IA

Ellsworth Community College
1100 College Avenue
Reg Johnson Hall 105
Iowa Falls, IA

Hawkeye Community College
1501 E. Orange Road
Tama Hall, Rm. 110
Waterloo, IA

Clinton Community College
1000 Lincoln Blvd., Rm. 105
Clinton, IA

Scott Community College
500 Belmont Road, Rm. 210
Bettendorf, IA

NE Iowa Community College
10250 Sundown Road
Conference Ctr., Rm. 2
Peosta, IA

Kirkwood Comm. College
6301 Kirkwood Blvd WW
Linn Hall, Rm. 203B
Cedar Rapids, IA

Prairie Lakes AEA 8
330 Avenue M, Lib. 204
Fort Dodge, IA

North Iowa Area Community College
Charles City Ctr., Rm. 106
200 Harwood Drive
Charles City, IA

Iowa Lakes Community College
2111 Highway 169 North
Room 13, Attendance Center
Algona, IA

Iowa Lakes Community College
3200 College Drive
Room 818, Smith Wellness Ctr.
Emmetsburg, IA

Iowa Valley Community College
3702 South Center Street
Continuing Ed. Ctr., Room 806
Marshalltown, IA

Iowa State University
Lagomarcino Hall, Rm. N147
Ames, IA

Muscatine Community College
Larson Hall, Rm. 60
152 Colorado St.
Muscatine, IA

Southwestern Community College
2300 N 4th Street
Red Oak Center, Rm. 116
Red Oak, IA

North Iowa Area Comm. College
500 College Drive
Careers Bldg., Rm. 128
Mason City, IA

Luther College
700 College Drive
Preus Bldg., Room 100
Decorah, IA

Green Valley AEA 14
1405 N. Lincoln, Turner Rm.
Creston, IA

Southern Prairie AEA 15
2814 N. Court Street
Ottumwa, IA

Iowa Western Comm. College
2700 College Rd., Looft Hall
Council Bluffs, IA

Iowa City Comm. School Dist.
509 S. Dubuque Street
Iowa City, IA

Indian Hills Comm. College
North First Street
Room CV15B
Centerville, IA

Northwest IA Comm. College
603 West Park St., Rm. 410
Bldg. D, Rm. 410
Sheldon, IA

Iowa Lakes Comm. College
2008 Hill Avenue
Spirit Lake, IA

Southeastern Community
College, AG Rm. 331
1500 W. Agency
West Burlington, IA

Buena Vista University
Information Tech. Ctr.
610 West 4th St., Rm. 7B
Storm Lake, IA

Area Education Agency 267
3712 Cedar Heights Dr.
Cedar Falls, IA

The precise proposed rule language is at <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Rules/Current/Bulletin/IAB051207.htm>; the document is number ARC 4731B. Below is a summary of key changes to the scholarship rule, 36.15(2):

	CURRENT	PROPOSED
Basic Requirement	Pass 4 courses to remain eligible.	Pass all courses to remain eligible and be making adequate progress toward graduation requirements as set by local policy.
Minimum Courseload	Take at least 4 subjects at all times	No change.
Period of Ineligibility	<p>If a student doesn't pass 4 at end of previous semester, student is ineligible for entire next semester.</p> <p>If a student is eligible per previous semester but doesn't pass 4 at any point during current semester, student is ineligible until school re-checks grades and determines that student is now passing 4. (Is locally determined and can be as brief as 1 or 2 weeks.)</p> <p>Locally determined whether ineligibility includes dressing for contests/competitions.</p>	<p>If a student doesn't pass all at any time, the student is ineligible for next 20 consecutive school days (4 weeks).</p> <p>Ineligibility includes dressing for contests/competitions.</p>
Frequency of grade checks	A school determines how often it checks grades.	Schools are directed to check grades no less than every 4 weeks.
CSIP requirements	No requirement to report interventions on CSIP.	Requirement that member schools report interventions on CSIP.

Students with Disabilities	"Special education students" are judge based on the progress they make toward their IEP goals	A "student with a disability" and an IEP is judge based on progress made toward IEP goals. (Not a substantive change; verbiage is changed to align with IDEA.)
Make-up work	Students allowed to use summer school or other means to make up failing grades to regain eligibility.	Ability to use summer school or other means to make up failing grades for eligibility purposes stricken.

Instructions for Public Hearings on Athletic Eligibility Rules

The following instructions shall be posted at each ICN site for persons in attendance at the January 11 and/or January 26 public hearings. Please feel free to disseminate copies to staff and other persons that you know will be in attendance.

1. The order in which ICN sites shall be recognized for speakers is as follows:

January 11:

Elkader
Charles City
Estherville
Algona
Spencer
Emmetsburg
Iowa Falls
Marshalltown
Ames
Waterloo
Clinton
Muscatine
Bettendorf
Red Oak
Peosta
Mason City
Cedar Rapids
Decorah
Fort Dodge
Creston
Ottumwa
Council Bluffs
Iowa City
Centerville
Sheldon
Spirit Lake
West Burlington
Storm Lake
Cedar Falls
Des Moines

(The order on January 26 shall be reversed.)

2. The moderator (Carol Greta) shall initially recognize two persons from each ICN site during the first round of comments (starting with the Elkader site, ending with Des Moines). A second round of comments shall then be undertaken, recognizing an additional two persons at each site. Time permitting, third and subsequent rounds shall take place.
3. Each ICN site should self-appoint a facilitator or, in the alternative, somehow determine in advance the order of speakers at their site.

4. Those with comments already written are strongly urged to send in their comments via regular mail, e-mail, or fax (see #7 below), and allow others to speak in their place. Written comments received by this agency receive as much weight as oral comments.
5. All speakers shall be limited to one (1) minute.
6. Speakers shall give their names and affiliation (if any) prior to making comment.
7. If time expires before all speakers are recognized, the speakers have the option of returning to the site on January 26 or sending written comments. Written comments may be emailed to carol.greta@iowa.gov or sent via regular mail to Carol Greta, Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319-0146, or faxed to Carol Greta at 515/281-4122.
8. Deadline for written comments is 4:30 p.m., January 26, 2006.

Applications for Student Member of State Board of Education

Applications for the nonvoting student member to the State Board of Education are due February 1, 2006. The application and all required supporting documents are at www.state.ia.us/educate/stateboard/nsm.html.

FUNDING AND GRANTS

Federal Funding Update

Adjustments to federal education program funding levels continue to be of concern to all of us. At this writing, the Labor-HHS Conference Committee appropriations recommendations have been adopted and education generally did not fare well. This is the first year since President Reagan's term in office when overall federal education funding is lower than the previous year. The Iowa Department of Education believes it is necessary for school districts to be aware of these funding adjustments, particularly in those funding areas that were reduced. Some items worth noting:

Overall Education funding	Decreased by \$59.1 million.
Funding under the No Child Left Behind Act	Decreased by \$783.9 million.
E2T2 Grants	Decreased by \$221 million from \$496 to \$275 million total.
Safe/Drug Free Schools Grants	Decreased by \$87.4 million from \$437.4 to \$350 million total.
Title V - Innovative Education Grants	Decreased by \$98.4 million from \$198.4 to \$100 million total.
Comprehensive School Reform Grants	Decreased by \$197.3 million from \$205.3 to \$8 million total.
IDEA	Increased by only \$100 million.
Even Start	Decreased by \$125 million from \$225.1 to \$100 million total.
Tech Prep	Decreased by \$14.2 million from \$23.5 to \$9.3 million.

There is also a 1% across-the-board cut that affects all of the above amounts. It is likely that Iowa school districts will see a decrease in available funding over the next year for the programs listed above. The Department of Education will continue to work with our federal delegation to help them understand the impact of these reductions to Iowa's schools, teachers, parents, and students. A comprehensive summary of these and other adjustments to federal funding will be available in the near future.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation assistance reimbursement

The Transportation Assistance payment for 2005-06 was announced on the DE website in December. The maximum amount for reimbursement is \$339 per year. Parent reimbursement is limited to one high school student and three elementary students per family. If a parent/guardian qualifies for school transportation assistance, the resident district has the right to determine how the transportation assistance will be provided. The type of transportation assistance is not a parent/guardian choice. The resident district may meet its statutory obligation in one of three ways:

- The resident district may actually provide transportation for the pupil(s) to a stop on the bus line of the receiving district.
- The resident district may allow the receiving district to enter the resident district to pick up the pupil(s) if the receiving district requests this arrangement. If either the sending or receiving district does not approve the arrangement, the resident district is still obligated to provide transportation assistance.
- The resident district may provide a parent/guardian reimbursement.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Sharing Information with *hawk-i*

Thousands of school children don't get the medical care they need because they are uninsured. Lack of proper medical care contributes to low student attendance, performance and achievement. Schools can help more students get the medical care they need by providing information about [hawk-i](#), Iowa's medical insurance program for low-income children.

Students who are eligible for free-and-reduced meals are eligible for *hawk-i*. Please remember to provide information about *hawk-i* to families that are filling out free-and-reduced meals applications. With a family's consent, that application can be shared with *hawk-i*, who will then contact the family directly to provide more information and details about available services. Families can request that their information not be shared with *hawk-i*, and the school must honor those requests.

Districts should keep on file a copy of the contract allowing this sharing of family information (sent to SFAs last August), the list released to *hawk-i*, and copies of any waivers (requests to not release names).

For additional information, please contact Patti Harding at 515/281-4754 or patti.harding@iowa.gov, or *hawk-i* at 800/257-8563.

Special ICN Events about Local School Wellness Policies

By the beginning of the 2006-07 school year, all public and nonpublic schools participating in the National School Lunch Program or Special Milk Program in Iowa must have wellness policies in place. The Iowa sample School Wellness Policy support materials and resources are now posted at the Iowa Association of School Boards website: www.ia-sb.org. The USDA recommends that schools conduct an assessment before determining the local school wellness goals. In Iowa, an online assessment tool is recommended by the Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Association of School Boards, and Iowa Partners: Action for Healthy Kids and is located at: <http://www.fshn.hs.iastate.edu/schoolnutrition/>. This assessment tool is free and easy to use. The district profile will compile school building data for the district, suggest wellness goals for each of the four categories, and continue to be available next year to measure the progress the district has made.

Register Now for School Wellness Policy III: Goals That Work. This third-in-a-series of ICN sessions will assist the School Wellness Committee as they write the local school wellness policy. The session offers presentations from school personnel who have changed practice and policies in food service, physical education, classroom practices, and more. Guidelines for writing policy that can be monitored will also be shared. This session is designed for all school staff participating on local wellness policy teams and will be offered three times:

- February 28, 2006, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- February 28, 2006, 3:15 - 4:15 p.m.
- March 1, 2006, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

To register, visit http://www3.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=6435.

Have you attended the first two informational ICN sessions to prepare for this session? If not, it's not too late!

- **School Wellness Policy I: Introduction** will be rebroadcast via the ICN on Jan. 12 and Feb. 9. See details and registration at http://www3.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=6367.
- **School Wellness Policy II: Process** will be rebroadcast via the ICN on Jan. 17 and Feb. 16. Details and registration at http://www3.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=6370.

The sessions are sponsored by Iowa Partners for Healthy Kids including ISU Extension, ISU Department of Human Sciences, Iowa Department of Education's Team Nutrition, and Iowa Public Television. For more information about local wellness policies or the content of the ICN session, contact Janet Wendland at 515/281-

5676 or Janet.Wendland@iowa.gov. For information about scheduling the ICN sessions, contact Marcia at 800/532-1290 or Marcia@iptv.org.

Free and Reduced Price Verification Summary Report Due January 15, 2006

The Verification Summary Report for the School Meal Program is due online in the CNP 2000 system on January 15, 2006. SFAs that have not submitted the Verification Summary Report by February 15 **will not receive** January reimbursement or subsequent reimbursement until the Verification Summary Report is completed. The SFA must enter all future claims in a timely manner even if the Verification Summary Report is not completed and submitted. The Department of Education is required to submit to the USDA the results of verification for all Iowa SFAs. Contact Nancy Christensen at 515/281-5663 or nancy.christensen@iowa.gov if you have questions.

School Food Safety: Process Approach to HACCP ICN Sessions

For school personnel responsible for food safety, rebroadcasts of two informational sessions and one new session will be offered by the Bureau of Nutrition Programs and School Transportation and Iowa State University Extension through Iowa Public TV K-12 Connections. These sessions are provided for school food service staff, school personnel involved with the school food service program, business managers, school principals and superintendents, and others who may be working with food in the school system. These two sessions are re-broadcasts from sessions originally aired in November. A third work session will be held regionally during March or April in approximately 14 locations throughout the state. Visit www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/fn/training/haccp.html for registration details on the two re-broadcast sessions. For information regarding the third regional training, watch for a mailing coming to your School Food Authority in the coming weeks. The above addressed site also features other information and links relevant to USDA's Reauthorization regulations regarding the school food safety requirement.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER STATE AGENCIES

Poster Contest to Help Missing Children

The Iowa Department of Public Safety is sponsoring a poster contest for 5th graders to help raise awareness about the importance and value of Amber Alerts, and to help bring missing children home safely. Visit the www.icyd.org website for details.

Support Emergency Preparedness

The Iowa Department of Public Health has launched a "Protect Iowa Health" campaign to highlight how important it is for families to have an emergency supply kit and communications plan. To help educate school children about emergency planning, IDPH is sending packets of information to school districts, including lesson plans, a DVD, and reference materials for teachers to integrate preparedness discussions in class. Students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade also are invited to participate in the inaugural IDPH preparedness poster contest with the theme, "Protect Iowa Health: Prepare Because You Care."

Full details are in the packets mailed to each district, and also are posted online at www.idph.state.ia.us. Questions? Contact Nicole Peckumn at IDPH, 515/242-5524 or npeckumn@idph.state.ia.us.

CALENDAR

Deadlines and [Dates to Remember](#)

January 23-24	Statewide High School Summit , Des Moines
February 1	Last day for a board to sign a whole grade sharing agreement for the following school year.
February 10	Deadline to apply for the Teacher Development Academies (June)
February 15-16	Iowa Culture and Language Conference , Des Moines
February 23	Comprehensive School Reform Grant application due.

SCHOOL LEADER UPDATE is produced monthly by the Iowa Department of Education for school leaders of Iowa. Comments and submissions should be sent to Kathi Slaughter, 515/281-5651, kathi.slaughter@iowa.gov.